Amendments to the Substitute Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0042] with the following amended paragraph:

[0042] In fig. 1, various profiles of operationally relevant parameters of a motor vehicle are schematically illustrated against a time axis t. Reference symbol 21 denotes vehicle speed which is illustrated with a double-thick line. At a first time t1 the speed rises above a threshold value [[S]] SSW, and runs relatively constantly within a time window tf until it falls to values below the threshold value S at time t2. (This profile represents, for example, a specific operating state of a motor vehicle, such as a relatively long motorway journey.)

Please replace paragraph [0043] with the following amended paragraph:

[0043] On account of the relatively high traveling speed, the operating temperature of the vehicle engine of a type generally shown in Fig. 1 of U.S. Patent No. 6,695,473, incorporated by reference herein (and therefore also the temperature of its heat-exchanger medium, such as cooling water) increases, the profile of said temperature of its heat-exchanger medium being denoted by reference symbol 22 with a solid line. Due to operation of the engine, this first temperature 22 of the heat-exchanger medium increases in a known manner, with a delay within the time window tf, which can be seen from the distance to the first time t1 on the time axis t. This rise in temperature has a gradient which

is relevant for the operating state and is illustrated by a straight gradient line 24 which forms a so-called temperature gradient over time.

Please replace paragraph [0049] with the following amended paragraph:

[0049] At time t1, engine temperature first exceeds 85°C, for example, which is treated as an entry criterion. If at least one specific operationally relevant parameters exceeds a predefined threshold value [[SW]] SSW depending on a specific operating state, the time window tf is started in a first method step S1.

Please replace paragraph [0051] with the following amended paragraph:

[0051] After the value falls below the same or a further predefined threshold value [[SW]] SSW (or after a specific time elapses, this time being controlled, for example, by a timer which is started simultaneously at time t1), the time window tf is ended in a method step S3 at the second time t2.

Please replace paragraph [0061] with the following amended paragraph:

[0061] The evaluation unit 13 may be a constituent part of an on-board computer 14 having a conventional type of processor 14', as is indicated symbolically by a double dot-and-dash line.